

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed March 9, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 have been amended. New claims 22-23 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-13 and 15-21 are allowable.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,297,759 to *Tilbor et al.* Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been cancelled from the application and therefore this rejection is now moot.

Claims 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tilbor et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,659,395 to *Rehkemper et al.* Claim 2 has been cancelled from the application. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tilbor et al.* Claim 3 has been cancelled from the application and therefore this rejection is now moot.

Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tilbor et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,425,794 to *Levy et al.*

The Examiner has stated that *Levy et al.* teaches an aircraft comprising an impact absorbing wing connection system for to dissipate any impact forces imparted on the wing during flight. Applicant has amended claims 6 and 14 to more clearly recite the

dissipation of any impact forces imparted upon the at least one blade *during rotation of said hub*. *Levy et al.* teaches a wing connection system that causes the wings to completely detach in order to absorb most of the impact forces, thereby protecting the aircraft from breaking (See Abstract last sentence, See Specification at Col. 4, lines 9-11 and 19-23). This aspect of *Levy et al.* teaches away from applicant's claimed invention of retaining the connection of the wing after impact. Furthermore, the wing detachment system of *Levy et al.* does not involve wings attached to a rotating hub and therefore further teaches away from applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New dependent claims 22 - 25 have been added to the application. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, applicant's respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and early allowance of pending claims 1-15 on the merits.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-25 are patentable and nonobvious over the cited references. Consequently, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

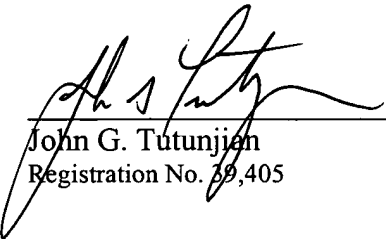
It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the

application, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-1433.

Respectfully submitted,

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